

power requires smart people, people who have gone the distance for their education, who have opened themselves up to this increasingly complex and interconnected world, and this changing global landscape requires us to expand our concept of diplomacy.

Now, when I was graduating so many years ago, diplomacy was the domain of privileged men working behind closed doors. Today, our diplomats are not limited, and our diplomacy is no longer confined to the State Department or our embassies. We are laying the foundation for 21st century statecraft. Where? In the classrooms of NYU, in the board rooms of the businesses of this great city, in the halls of academia, in the operating rooms of our great hospitals. We are looking for those personal commitments and connections, and that is where all of you come in.

SERVICE AND DIPLOMACY BY YOUNG PEOPLE

The biggest challenges we face today will be solved by the 60 percent of the world's population under the age of 30. And already, young people, like all of you, are using their talents and ingenuity to help fashion their own brand of service and diplomacy.

A few examples: In the nation of Colombia, two young college graduates, fed up with the violence in their country, used Facebook to organize 14 million people into the largest antiterrorism demonstrations in the history of the world. In a few short weeks, their peaceful efforts did as much damage to the terrorist networks as years of military action.

I know that one of your graduates spent months on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro searching for sustainable development models to bring to women and families and help them lift themselves out of poverty. Another of your classmates was studying in China last year when the devastating earthquake struck, and that has led to work ever since to deliver supplies and assistance to villagers in remote areas. International students have gone on to fight for human rights in Rwanda, build civil society in the nation of Georgia, run businesses, and lead governments. And many of you, I know, used social networking platforms to make Barack Obama the President of the United States of America.

President Obama and I deeply understand how important it is for the young people of our country, but the young people of every country, to be given the opportunity to translate your beliefs and ideals into service and action, just as John Kennedy did when he created the Peace Corps and as President Bill Clinton did when he created AmeriCorps. This is in the tradition of citizen service.

So we need to figure out ways to prepare all of our institutions of government, including and especially the State Department, to harness the efforts of those who do not enter the Foreign Service but still engage in your own type of foreign service. Our State Department personnel are skilled, dedicated, passionate, and effective. And for those of you still looking for jobs, we are hiring a new generation of diplomats.

I hope many of you will join our ranks in the Foreign Service and the Civil Service, but I know that not all will choose to become professional diplomats, and I also know that the State Department alone cannot tackle these great problems. So my message to you today is this: Be the special envoys of your ideals; use the communication tools at your disposal to advance the interests of our nation and humanity everywhere; be citizen ambassadors using your personal and professional lives to forge global partnerships, build on a common commitment to solving our planet's common problems. By creating

your own networks, you can extend the power of governments to meet the needs of this and future generations. You can help lay the groundwork for the kind of global cooperation that is essential if we wish, in our time, to end hunger and defeat disease, to combat climate change, and to give every child the chance to live up to his or her God-given potential.

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES

This starts with opportunities for educational exchanges, the kind of dorm room and classroom diplomacy that NYU is leading on. I want to commend my friend, your president, the trustees of this great university, for understanding and believing in the importance of educational exchanges.

You know, study abroad is like spring training for this century. It helps you develop the fundamentals, the teamwork, and the determination to succeed. And we want more American students to have that opportunity. That's why we are increasing funding for Gilman scholarships by more than 40 percent. More than 400 New Yorkers have used Gilman scholarships to spend a semester abroad, including nine students from NYU last year.

Now, of course, study abroad is a two-way street, and we should bring more qualified students from other countries to study here. NYU provides a prime example of what international students can bring to a campus and how they can benefit themselves and their countries. Over 700,000 international students came to the United States last year, and NYU had the second largest number of any school in the country.

Now, the benefits from such exchanges are so great that I am committed to streamline the visa process—particularly for science and technology students so that even more qualified students will come to our campuses in the future. We're also doing more to marry technology with global service. That's why today I am pleased to announce that over the next year the State Department will be creating Virtual Student Foreign Service Internships to harness the energy of a rising generation of citizen diplomats. Working from college and university campuses, American students will partner with our embassies abroad to conduct digital diplomacy that reflects the realities of the networked world. And you can learn more about this initiative on the State Department's website.

But I know that you don't have to wait for us to create a new program. When you go home today, go online and find the website called Kiva, K-i-v-a, where you can help someone like San Ma, a mother in Vietnam who is seeking a microcredit loan to buy rice seed and fertilizer for her family farm; or log on to Heifer International's site, and for less than the cost of a dinner out, you can donate a flock of geese to a hungry family in Asia or Africa; or help Wangari Mathai's Green Belt movement in planting trees and offsetting carbon emissions and empowering women in Africa.

GLOBAL SERVICE

Now, supporting these projects and others like them doesn't require a lot of time or money. But for the people you help and the planet you protect, your participation can be not just a game changer, but a life changer. Global service also means promoting good governance. We need informed citizens, both here at home and around the world, to hold their governments accountable for getting results and finding solutions.

And this is not only directed at the graduates today, but there are a lot of proud mothers and fathers and husbands and wives and grandparents and children and others who have seen you to this day. And this is an

offer and a challenge to all of us. In the times that we face, we know we don't have a person to waste, we don't have an idea to overlook. In fact, we have to be even more committed to reaching out and crossing the divides that too often separate us. For those who have come to this country to celebrate a child or a friend's graduation, please take home this message: America more than ever wants your help; in fact, needs your help as we build these new partnerships and as we seek solutions to the global crises that cannot be solved by any one person or one government alone.

We need each other. We always have. It's just so much more apparent today. A flu starting in one country spreads quickly around the world. An extremist ideology starting with a few people explodes across the internet. A global financial crisis affects farmers and small business people in every corner of the globe. That is a new reality. But equally important is that we also now have the tools to work together to forge this common approach to these common threats.

So, Class of 2009, you have an historic opportunity. Every class is told that, and to some extent I suppose it is always true. But just in the course of this commencement ceremony, you've heard several references to the global economic crisis. The times that you are graduating in are, yes, perhaps more difficult and somewhat more daunting. But that's when we really rise together. One of the best lines from one of my favorite baseball movies, *A League of Their Own*—said it well, "If it were easy, anybody could do it."

You know, when the Yankees moved in to their old stadium next door in 1923, there was only person on the roster from west of St. Louis. Their team mostly looked the same, talked the same, and came from the same kind of cities and towns and rural areas across America. Think about the team that plays in this new stadium. It includes players from Mexico, Japan, Taiwan, Panama, four other countries. The Dominican Republic alone is home to seven Yankees. In the same way, NYU has evolved as well. The university was founded to serve the City of New York. Today it serves the world.

THE BEST INSURANCE POLICY: AN NYU EDUCATION

We know that there is much yet ahead that none of us can predict. There is no way to stop change. Change will come. What is unknown is whether it will bring progress or not. But you have done what you needed to do to get the best insurance policy you could, and that is an NYU education. And so armed with that education, I have every confidence that you will not only succeed by the dint of your own hard work and effort, but you will contribute far beyond your own personal needs. This is your moment. You've made it to the big leagues, and you are up to bat. Go out and give us a future worthy of this great university, of this great city, of this great country, and of the world we all wish to create together.

Thank you, congratulations, and Godspeed.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING RONALD BOYD

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the work and career of Ronald Boyd of Watertown, SD. Ron is retiring this month after serving the American Legion of South Dakota for the past decade.

Ron served in the U.S. Navy for 27 years. In 1999, Ron and his wife Marsha moved to Watertown where Ron joined the American Legion Department Headquarters Staff as the Department Assistant Adjutant. He was appointed Acting Department Adjutant in July 2000 and Department Adjutant at the Mid Winter Conference in February 2001.

During his tenure as Department Adjutant, Ron provided important counsel and advice to veterans, family members, VA officials, veterans' service officers, State legislators and congressional members on a range of issues. In particular, under his leadership, the American Legion in South Dakota has provided dozens of forums for veterans and their families in towns all across South Dakota to inform them of their benefits as veterans. I have always appreciated the time he has taken to visit with me in Washington, DC, and in South Dakota and update me on the events and issues important to the members of the American Legion.

It is with great honor that I share his impressive accomplishments with my colleagues, and I thank him for his service to this Nation and its veterans. Ron's consistent dedication to serving his country is admirable. His commitment to both the Navy and the legion reflect Ron's strong character and work ethic. Countless veterans have benefited from his loyalty and devotion. I wish Ron, and his wife Marsha, all the best in retirement and thank him for his many years of service.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERESFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the community of Beresford, SD. This progressive community will have a chance to reflect on its past and future, and I congratulate the people of Beresford for all they have accomplished.

Founded as a railroad depot town in 1883, Beresford was named after investor Lord Charles Beresford. The first building in Beresford was a saloon, soon followed by a general store called Sunnyside. The Beresford Study Club started a library in 1923 with donated books and fundraised for more. The library continues to serve as a valuable resource for the community.

Beresford and its citizens are a credit to the State of South Dakota. I am proud to join with the community members of Beresford in celebrating the last 125 years, and looking forward to a promising future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRITTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I rise in order to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the community of Britton, SD. Britton is a progressive and friendly

community infused with hospitality, beauty and spirit.

Founded when J.B. and F.B. Squier laid claims in the vicinity, Britton developed further after Colonel Isaac Britton, general manager of the Dakota & Great Southern Railroad, visited and determined the area to be an ideal place for a railroad. Many changes have taken place since that first claim shanty in 1884, and the community now includes an impressive two-story school building and expanded medical facilities, both highly acclaimed. Britton has also established a strong economic base with over 25 businesses.

As the county seat of Marshall County, Britton continues to be a thriving community with many recreational opportunities including a nine hole golf course, new library, movie theater, bowling alley, swimming pool, three city parks and Prayer Rock Museum.

One hundred twenty-five years after its founding, the "Gateway to the Glacial Lakes" remains a vital community and a great asset to the wonderful State of South Dakota. I congratulate Britton and its citizens on reaching this historic anniversary.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEAR LAKE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the community of Clear Lake, SD.

This county seat was founded when the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad went through the area. The first depot was a box car, with other businesses quickly being erected including a general store, a butcher, and a blacksmith. Clear Lake also had a notable system to alert the town to fires, first with a triangle, then a bronze bell that is displayed in the town today.

Clear Lake is noted for its prosperous farmland and picturesque lake. This thriving town celebrated their achievement of 125 years with a weekend celebration filled with music, food and contests. Its population continues to grow as the citizens find new ways to hold onto their heritage while looking to the future. I am proud to represent Clear Lake, and would like to congratulate them on their historic anniversary.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMERY, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the community of Emery, SD. I offer my congratulations to the people of Emery on reaching this momentous occasion.

Emery was named after the original settler, Sloan Miller Emery, who came to the area after leaving the banking industry in Minnesota. Soon after its original settlement, businesses began to sprout including a post office, a

grain elevator, and several stores. A medical practice was started in 1891. Emery has continued to thrive throughout the years, and will be celebrating their anniversary July 3-5, 2009 with games, hot air balloon rides, and fireworks.

After 125 years, the city is stronger than ever. I am pleased to publicly honor the achievements of this wonderful South Dakota community as they reach this juncture, and wish them all the best in the future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEOLA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the community of Leola, SD. I am proud to honor the people of Leola on this memorable occasion, and to extend my congratulations to them.

Settlers founded Leola in 1884 as a homestead site and named it after the daughter of Captain E.D. Haynes. The community quickly grew, getting its first newspaper, The Leola Blade, in 1885. Known as the "Rhubarb Capital of the World", Leola holds a biannual festival to celebrate and sample the various uses of this unique fruit. The town also has a Threshing Bee in September of every year to honor their forefathers' way of life with live demonstrations of antique threshing machines and an antique tractor show.

Located near the Ordway Prairie Memorial Preserve, Leola is also an excellent place for nature and history lovers to experience beautiful South Dakota prairie and its wildlife as the settlers did so many years ago.

The seat of rural McPherson County is a close-knit community infused with hospitality, beauty, and an exceptional quality of life. Small communities like Leola are the epitome of what makes South Dakota great, and I am proud to represent this thriving town.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF TORONTO, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the community of Toronto, SD.

Toronto was founded by four farmers who all donated land to the township. The farmer who donated the most land, Mr. McCraney, named the new community after his hometown of Toronto, Canada. The Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad built a depot which became a popular landmark, providing a gathering place for the citizens. In 1898, Toronto became the smallest town in the United States to have electric lights, with telephone service following 3 years later. This resilient town made it through seven major fires as well as severe bouts of small pox and Spanish influenza. I have a personal bond to the community as my grandparents Reverend Peder and Anna Ljostveit are buried in the Toronto Cemetery.